



10/528707

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Reckitt Benckiser (UK) Limited  
c/o John C McKnight  
Reckitt Benckiser plc  
Group Patents Department  
Dansom Lane  
HULL  
HU8 7DS

The Patent Office  
Patents Directorate

Concept House  
Cardiff Road, Newport  
South Wales, NP10 8QQ

Examiner: 01633 814694  
E-Mail: richard.gregson@patent.gov.uk  
Switchboard: 01633 814000  
Fax: 01633 814444  
Minicom: 08459 222250  
DX: 722540/41 Cleppa Park 3  
<http://www.patent.gov.uk>

Your Reference: 11134P1 GB ED  
Application No: GB0222359.2

27 October 2004

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Examination Report under Section 18(3)

Latest date for reply:

27 April 2005

I enclose two copies of my examination report and a copy of the new citations. These were found during the updating search which was extended in view of the extensive amendments made to claim 1. The new matter searched for was: "A garment cover comprising an open ended bag with a further longitudinal opening extending from the open end thereof."

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the enclosed report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

Yours faithfully

Dr Richard Gregson  
Examiner



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Tel : 01633 814694  
Date of report : 27 October 2004  
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## Patents Act 1977 Examination Report under Section 18(3)

### Basis of the examination

1. My examination has taken account of the amendments filed with your agent's letter of 29 September 2004.

### Inventive step

2. The invention as defined in claims 1-16 is obvious in view of what has already been disclosed in the following documents:

2.1	GB 440673 (Wilson-Haffenden)	-	See whole document.
2.2	US 5593038 (Lyon)	-	See Figure 4 and column 3, lines 47-56 in particular.
2.3	US 2378665 (Threeton)	-	See whole document.
2.4	JP 11089699 (Kuraray)	-	See diagrams and English language abstracts.
2.5	JP 10165288 (Ebara)	-	See diagrams and English language abstracts.
2.6	JP 8266388 (Asahi)	-	See diagrams and English language abstracts.
2.7	JP 8070981 (Daiwabo)	-	See diagrams and English language abstracts.
3. Claim 1 claims a clothes cover comprising an odour-absorbing sheet material and generally configured as an open ended bag with an additional opening formed in the front surface of the bag and extending from the open end thereof. Clothes covers of this type are known in the art as disclosed in documents 2.1 to 2.2 and may be constructed inter alia from fabric materials. Clothes covers comprising odour absorbing sheet materials are also known and employ a variety of absorbants in a variety of cover configurations. It is therefore submitted that claim 1 is claiming a known configuration of clothes cover made from a known material in the art. There would not appear to be any additional unexpected advantages arising from this combination of known features and therefore claim 1 is considered to lack an inventive step over the prior art.



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**[Examination Report contd.]**

4. Claims 2-6 and 9 relate to the materials used to construct the clothes cover of claim 1. With reference to the analysis provided in my earlier examination report of the 28 February 2003, all of these claims were previously objected to for lack of novelty or inventive step. It is therefore submitted that as claim 1 lacks an inventive step over the prior art, then claims 2-6 will also lack such a step.
5. Claims 7 and 8 specify a range of values for the percentage by weight of the odour absorbing material in the clothes cover of claim 1 etc. This range may be from 5% to 60%. Whilst not explicitly disclosed in documents 2.4 to 2.7 this range is not in itself considered to be an inventive feature. It is also noted that the structure of the clothes cover disclosed in document 2.6 in particular would lend itself to relatively high loadings of the deodorant material. Therefore claims 7 and 8 are considered to lack an inventive step over the prior art.
6. Claims 10-15 relate to various constructional features of the clothing cover claimed in claim 1. All these features are disclosed in documents 1.1 to 1.3 and therefore claims 10-15 lack an inventive step over the prior art. Claim 16 relates to a method of using the cover of claim 1 and therefore necessarily lacks an inventive step as claim 1 is considered to do so.

**Clarity.**

7. Claims 7 and 8 refer to preferred features of the claim itself. This kind of wording should be avoided as it renders the claims unclear in scope.
8. If amendments are made to the claims in response to the above objections, corresponding amendments should be made to the description to ensure consistency between the two.

**Conflict with a corresponding PCT patent application**

9. This application appears to be similar to your international patent application published under number WO2004/028317, having the same priority date and designating GB (European Patent). If patents granted on these two applications relate to the same invention, the Comptroller will in due course revoke the patent granted on the present application unless either you amend the present specification to remove the conflict or, before the date of grant of the present application under Section 25(1), you begin proceedings to surrender the European patent(UK). Of course if the GB designation is withdrawn before the grant of the European patent, no action will be required under Section 73(2).